

# MCA Advisory



*The Journal of the Medal Collectors of America*

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\$55 w/Hard Copy Edition

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### Calendar:

Central States Numismatic Convention  
April 20, 2012

Philadelphia ANA World's Fair of Money  
August 7-10, 2012

Check out our MCA Website:



[www.medalcollectors.org](http://www.medalcollectors.org)

## ~ President's Message ~

Greetings and best wishes to all for a Happy and Healthy New Year. We began 2012 in grand fashion, with the MCA meeting held at 12 Noon on Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup> as part of the New York International Numismatic Convention. The meeting was well attended, with 24 individuals present. We were fortunate to have Past President John Sallay as guest speaker. John's presentation, "*Athena Leading the Way: Her Iconography on Medals*", reviewed the images of Athena from ancient Greek sources through the Classical revival of the Renaissance and included the use of Athena's image on modern medals and coins. He also presented information demonstrating the influence of earlier portrayals of Athena on the subsequent imagery of Britannia on English coins and medals, and Gobrecht's Seated Liberty on our own coinage. For those who were not fortunate enough to attend the meeting and hear John's talk, we hope to have John's images posted on the MCA website.

We are also happy to report that our treasury is healthy, and the current pricing for printed and email versions of the Advisory will help maintain our financial stability. Just a reminder to those of you who have not yet sent in their dues, the annual dues for those wanting to receive the printed version of the Advisory is \$55, and electronic subscriptions are \$25. For those who fail to renew promptly, this issue will be the last.

This year, we are busy planning additional events to involve our membership. Board member Bob Fritsch has graciously offered to host a regional MCA meeting as part of the Central States Numismatic Society's annual convention to be held this year at the Renaissance Convention Center in Schaumburg, IL. The meeting is at 9:30AM on Friday, 20 April 2012. The meeting will allow members living in the Chicago area to attend a club meeting, and to provide, as Bob put it "a gathering of people who appreciate art and historical medals, the relaxed atmosphere will allow collectors to talk about medals and show recent acquisitions." Bob will also give a short talk on the reasons to collect medals.

We are also planning our meeting at the ANA summer convention, to be held this year in Philadelphia. We have been scheduled on Thursday, August 9<sup>th</sup> from 3 to 5 PM. I am hoping to have a "mini-symposium" with two guest speakers as part of our program. In that regard, if someone has a topic or area of interest that they would like to present, please contact me. We will also be arranging for a

club table. This would be a great opportunity for MCA members to talk about medals and medal collecting to the public, as well as provide a meeting place for our members to relax and chat. We still have time to prepare, but I am hoping that the job of manning the table can be shared by several members. Please contact me if you will be attending the convention and have an hour or two to spare. I have manned convention tables for other organizations in the past and find the time flies; what could be more fun than chatting with friends and talking about something you love! ☺

~David Menchell

### Join us in Chicago! **Central States 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Numismatic Convention**



#### **MCA Chicago Meeting**

**Friday, April 20, 2012  
9:30 AM**

**Epiphany Room  
Renaissance Convention Center  
1551 North Thoreau Drive  
Schaumburg, IL 60173**



**[www.centralstates.info](http://www.centralstates.info)**



## ❧ From the Editor ❧

The New York International is our favorite coin show of the year. In addition to attracting our friends from overseas, the show is the venue for the annual ANS Gala, a fun evening of dining and dancing in semi-formal attire. This year, the event took place immediately following the Heritage auction in Florida, which featured a collection of French & Indian War medals consigned by ye editor. One “mystery” bidder on the Internet had swept all 51 lots and, as a result, we were approached at the Gala by a number of disappointed buyers. There were the usual suspects but there were also serious numismatists who had not collected medals heretofore but who had bid at the sale. When queried about their new tastes, they pointed to the beauty of medals and the relatively low prices they command. The latter is a left handed compliment, but the former is right handed and we will take it.

The new format of The Advisory drew favorable comments from sundry Europeans at NYINC. Oddly enough, it costs just about the same for us to mail to Europe as to the United States. We predict that our membership from overseas will rise as will contributions to our content. The fact that our domestic membership has been also rising places us pretty much alone among the specialty clubs. We would like to take that as a compliment but, truth to tell, MCA has always been more cerebral than evangelical.

Our first-ever Club medal has weaved its ways through a daunting series of obstacles. Members who have paid their money have been patient beyond the limits of reason, for which we thank you profusely. On more than one occasion, we have been on the verge of calling a halt to the project and then, more out of pride than good sense, we pressed on. Obstinacy has been rewarded such that partial delivery to us is now scheduled for February 20<sup>th</sup> with the remainder expected 10 days later. Effectively, these medals are hand crafted and should provide purchasers with the joy of ownership for years to come.

With the publication of *Peace Medals: Negotiating Power in Early America*, the literature on this subject has been greatly enriched. Important holes have been filled – e.g. with respect to Spanish medals and the medals of Louis XV – but one glaring hole remains. It is devoutly to be hoped that some enterprising researcher will write the story of the Indian peace medals of George II. These were not limited to the 30 pieces described in Betts as having

been brought over by Sir Danvers Osborne but were, in fact, distributed quite broadly. And then there is the relatively naïve fabric of the medals – were they really made in England or should some local artisan claim credit, as with the Happy While United medals?

Readers will easily recall Sim Comfort, the eloquent Englishman who contributed “The Naval Copenhagen Badge” in our last issue. He had the courage to twist the tail of the numismatic establishment in Great Britain and we were the beneficiaries of his insights into engraving. Not surprisingly, it turns out that Sim has written four books, the latest being entitled *Forget Me Not*. This title describes in detail 140 engraved coins having to do with naval themes, mostly from the 18<sup>th</sup> century but a few later. The author describes the techniques used for executing these pieces and how it was that the capability for sophisticated artistry moved from on shore to on board. Along the way, readers are treated to vignettes of specific naval battles and illustrious naval personalities. *Forget Me Not* is an easy read, certain to awaken the urge to own one or more of these eloquent testimonies to the creativity of the British tar.

Clever Tony Lopez has brought us into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and created an official MCA club Facebook page. Facebook is dynamic, and you can add your own pictures or comments. You can also view photos there from our annual club meetings, including images of the wonderful exhibits from the 2010 Boston ANA, including the Washington-Webster silver set of Comitia Americana medals at the Massachusetts Historical Society, and a rare image of the original gold Washington Before Boston medal awarded to Washington by Congress. This image of the greatest of all American medallic treasures is the only one you will find on the internet. For the social media types who are already on Facebook, please “Like” us, and join in. For those of you who are not, perhaps the time has arrived for you to catch up with the times. 🍌

~ John W Adams

### Check out the New Official MCA Facebook page!



[http://www.facebook.com/pages/  
Medal-Collectors-of-America/23626537977](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Medal-Collectors-of-America/23626537977)

# Heritage Auction John W. Adams Collection French and Indian War Medals

By  
Tony J. Lopez

On January 4<sup>th</sup>, Heritage Auctions made its initial sortie into historical medals.

The John W. Adams Collection of French & Indian War medals, consisting of 51 lots, represented the most complete assemblage of this material yet recorded, with any number of rare varieties lacking in Ford. The cataloguing of the individual lots was both expert and insightful. To enhance this fine presentation, Heritage provided high quality images of every lot. The scene was set for a successful event and a great success it proved to be, with prices generally in excess of estimates and with all lots sold.

The first eight lots in the consignment represented a complete set of the modest-but-important Boscawen medals. Never before has a complete set been offered nor, to our knowledge, has a Boscawen in silver ever appeared at auction. This latter “slept” at \$800 because the cataloguer misdescribed it, his only error amongst an otherwise triumphal performance.

Lot 3902, an extremely rare variety of the Louisbourg Taken medal in bronze, fetched a modest \$1700. Unlike, for example, large cent collectors, medal collectors are not turned on by mere rarity. Rather, aesthetics and historicity are more important determinants of value.

These elements were to be found in examples of Louisbourg Taken (with hangar), British Victories of 1758 and Quebec Taken, all in gold. These three medals brought \$92,000, \$63,250 and \$32,200 respectively. The description of the Louisbourg Taken ran to a full page, typifying the care lavished on the consignment. Heritage Auctions is to be congratulated for what amounts to its debut in historical medals. Members of MCA can look forward eagerly to future installments. ●



**Lot 3896**  
**Louisbourg Taken Medal, Betts-410**  
**Realized \$92,000**



**Lot 3906**  
**British Victories of 1758, Betts-416**  
**Realized \$63,250**



**Lot 3902**  
**Quebec Taken, Betts-414**  
**Realized \$1,700**



**Lot 3916**  
**Quebec Taken, Betts-421**  
**Realized \$32,200**



# Stacks Bowers Americana Sale

By  
**John W. Adams**

Every January, Stacks holds an Americana Sale loaded with choice morsels for the medal collecting fraternity. This year was no different – indeed, this year was better than average.

The very first lot in the medal section of the catalogue – lot 6001- got things off to a promising start. This medal, an extremely well described “original” in bronze hammered at \$950, not cheap in absolute terms but a bargain for such a well executed and historic piece in choice mint condition. There followed a run of ten Admiral Vernon medals with the two choicest –lots 6013 and 6017 – hammering at \$750 and \$1100 respectively. Both were mint state but the irony was that the more expensive piece was under-described (a rarity these days) as about uncirculated. Credit here must be given to the photography, which is good enough to get participants past most errors in the text.

Lot 6030, a truly scudsy example of the 1777 Franklin medal, hammered at \$1300, a tribute to the aura surrounding this grand yet mysterious design. Speaking of scudsy, Lot 6044 was a bronze Libertas Americana in “AU 58”, a truly forgettable example of this glorious creation. It as well as Lot 6042, a silver Libertas in “MS 61” as well as Lot 6043, another bronze, this one in “MS 62”, all failed to meet generous reserve prices. These three and their accompanying grades make one wonder why the grading services want to get into this material: there in timeless plastic is definitive evidence that they know not what they do.

By haranguing the grading services in this instance, we detract from the high quality of the great bulk of the material. Lot 6048 was a lovely gilded shell of a Jefferson portrait; elaborately framed and hung, this would have made a stunning Valentine’s Day gift at \$1900. Lots 6093 and 6201 were gem examples of the Comitia Americana series; the former was a John Paul Jones at \$9500 hammer and the latter a Washington Before Boston at \$9000. Speaking of WBB, an electrotype of the first and never-used obverse of that prestigious medal brought \$2500. That may seem aggressive for an electro but the master for this electro has a different bust and is of a smaller diameter than any other specimens of the U obverse. A most important discovery that, hopefully, will be written up in some future issue of The Advisory. Inaugural medals are collected by a dedicated elite, who tend to suffer from a shortage of material; Lot 6070, the 1905 Theodore Roosevelt inaugural by Saint

Gaudens and Lot 6073, the very rare second inaugural of Franklin D. Roosevelt, provided toothsome targets for these specialists. For those who covet gorgeous silver medals, Lot 6084 at \$13000 was a cased example of the Louisiana medal to Zachary Taylor. For those whose tastes run to gold, Lot 6293 was a massive (9.9 troy ounces) medal dated 1892 and depicting the return of Columbus. Lot 6317 was perhaps the only known gold example of the 1881 ANS medal bearing a lovely rendition of Cleopatra’s needle; this brought \$17700, reminding us that collecting gold medals is an expensive if soul-satisfying habit.

Mention must be made of an extraordinary run – Lots 6338 through 6372 - of those excellent designs sponsored by the Society of Medallists. David Alexander’s new book, *American Art Medals*, provides a solid foundation for this series and, in turn, it seems possible that new interest aroused by the book was fulfilled by these very medals that were offered. All in all, Stacks Bowers gave us a memorable feast. 🍌



**Lot 6013**  
**Admiral Vernon Porto Bello Medal - PBvi 15-T**  
**Realized \$862**



**Lot 6017**  
**Admiral Vernon Fort Chagre Medal - FCv 15-V**  
**Realized \$1,265**



**Lot 6030**  
**1777 Franklin of Philadelphia Medal**  
**Realized \$1,495**



**Lot 6048**  
**Jefferson Portrait Shell by Pingo & Marchant**  
**Realized \$2,070**



**Lot 6070**  
**Theodore Roosevelt Saint-Gaudens Inaugural Medal**  
**Realized \$17,250**



**Lot 6073**  
**FDR 1937 Inauguration Medal - Dark Torch Finish**  
**Realized \$6,775**



**Lot 6080**  
**Major Zachary Taylor Louisiana Medal - Silver**  
**Realized \$14,950**



**Lot 6093**  
**John Paul Jones Comitia Americana Medal**  
**Realized \$10,950**



**Lot 6200**  
**Washington Before Boston - Original Obverse Shell**  
**Realized \$2,875**



**Lot 6201**  
**Washington Before Boston Comitia Americana Medal**  
**Realized \$10,350**



**Lot 6317**  
**ANS Cleopatra's Needle Medal - Gold**  
**Realized \$19,550**





Newton had some important detractors, however. The most prominent among them was Jacques Cassini, the French mathematician and astronomer. Cassini believed that Richter's technique for measurement was flawed, and that the evidence supporting Newton was flimsy. Cassini had done his own topographical and astronomical measurements in France, and based upon those measurements, determined that the shape of the Earth was prolate, whereby the measurement of Earth's circumference at the poles was greater than the measurement around the equator.

Eight years after Newton's death, to settle the dispute, King Louis XV of France partnered with the French Academy of Sciences in sponsoring two expeditions to measure the circumference of the Earth at the equator and the poles. The importance of the measurements was not only necessary to answer the debate and confirm the physics of gravitation; understanding the shape of the earth was critical to mapping and navigation. These two French-led geodesic expeditions to the Equator and Polar Lapland, from 1735-1744, are jointly referred to as the French Geodesic Missions.

### **1735 Geodesic Expedition to the Equator**

The 1735 equatorial mission, known as the Spanish-French Geodesic Mission, was the first to be undertaken. With limited access to locations such as the Amazon basin, a joint expedition was organized to sail from France, heading south to Quito in the Viceroyalty of Peru, near the equator. The group was led by some of the greatest scientists, physicists, astronomers, and mathematicians of the time.

The leader of the equatorial expedition was Louis Godin, French astronomer and philosopher, and prominent member of the Academy of Sciences. In 1733 Godin had authored a paper on the shape of the Earth. Also directing the group were Charles Marie de La Condamine and Pierre Bouguer, both well-known French astronomers and mathematicians. On May 12, 1735, the group set sail across the Atlantic on the *Portefaix*. During their voyage south across the Atlantic, they documented and measured magnetic variation, latitude and longitude. The scientists and explorers found disparities as great as 40° from existing charts.

On June 22 the *Portefaix* arrived at the island of Martinique in the New World. On July 4 they took the short trek to St. Domin ue (modern day Haiti on the left half of the island of Hispaniola). Delayed after waiting 3 days for fog to clear, they arrived a week later on the north coast of Hispaniola at Saint Louis Fort on July 11. The delays for the French explorers

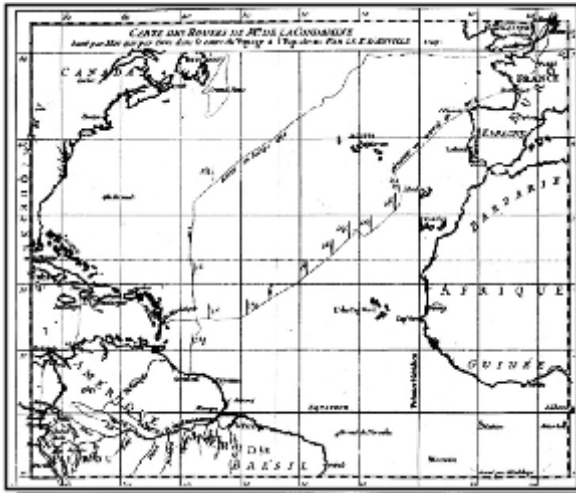
had only begun. What followed was months of frustrating delays waiting to depart St. Domin ue, far beyond the time they had planned for their usual duties exploring and mapping the area.



A 30 meter high *Mitad del Mundo* Monument (top left) was erected at the Equator near Quito, Ecuador in 1982, flanked by busts of French Scientists from the 1737-1739 Equatorial Geodesic Mission; (clockwise from top right) Pierre Godin, Pierre Bouguer, and Charles La Condamine. With precise GPS technology, it is now known the monument actually lies 240 meters south of the equator.

*Portefaix* had become grounded due to a rare summer fog, and the scientists, anxious to begin their work, decided to split up, each following their own whims, traveling south throughout the island of Hispaniola making measurements and observations. They finally met up at the coastal town of Petit Goâve on the southern peninsula of St. Domin ue on August 29. There they proceeded to search for a replacement ship to take them to South America, having lost *Portefaix* after it was recalled to Louisbourg on August 11. On September 30, they secured the services of the sixteen-gun *Vantour*. Taking month to load equipment and supplies onboard, and after an almost four month delay beforehand, they finally departed St. Domin ue on October 31, heading south to begin their trip to South America and the equator.





**1749 French Geodesic Mission Map of the route  
Across the Atlantic to South America, by La Condamine**

On November 15, 1735, the French expedition finally landed on the South American continent at the Port of Cartagena de Indias on the coast of Colombia. There the French were joined by two Spaniards who had sailed across the Atlantic from Cadiz to meet them; Antonio de Ulloa, a Spanish Naval Captain, explorer, mathematician, and later the first Spanish Governor of Louisiana; and Jorge Juan, a Spanish mathematician and Captain in the Spanish Navy. Competent and experienced sea voyagers, Ulloa and Juan had left Europe onboard the Spanish warships *Nuevo Conquistador* and *Incendio* at the same time as the French group, but had arrived at Cartagena de Indias on July 9, over four months prior to their French counterparts. Also accompanying them was the new Viceroy of Peru, Marques de Villarcía. Having successfully escorted Viceroy de Villarcía across the Atlantic, the Spanish Captains had a dual role in joining the expedition, which included reporting any of the group's findings back to the Spanish Crown.

The expedition continued to extensively document their travels, including mapping and measuring the cities and ports along the way. Rather than take the treacherous inland mountain route over the Andes to Quito, they chose the longer route, and sailed on to Porto Bello on the Atlantic side near the Isthmus of Panama, arriving on November 29. From Porto Bello, they traveled overland across the isthmus up the Chagres River, following in part the route of what would become the Panama Canal. On December 29, they reached the Pacific Ocean, at the city of Panama. They remained in Panama as the new year of 1736 came, and once again began looking for a vessel to take them further on their journey. They faced a further two month delay before boarding the merchant ship *San Cristobal*, leaving Panama on February 22,

1736, and heading south along the west coast of South America. They crossed the equator on the evening of March 7, and arrived at the port of Manta (in modern day Ecuador) on March 10, 1736.

After the long arduous trip, an enormous rift had developed between the scientists, and La Condamine and Bouguer had become somewhat unlikely allies against Godin. From there the group split up. Godin continued on the route to Quito as originally planned, and joined by the Spaniards Ulloa and Juan, sailed south to Guayaquil, and on May 3 they headed up the Guayaquil River, facing the treacherous trip inland to Quito. As they rode up the steep western edge of the Andes by mule, the Spaniards recorded that the experience "*filled their minds with terror*".

In defiance of Godin's leadership, La Condamine and Bouguer stayed behind in Manta to do observations and mapping along the coastal area, and then traveled north by canoe and horseback to locate the equator on the coast at the Pacific Ocean. After discovering the precise location at which the equator meets the Pacific Ocean along the coastline at a promontory called Palmar, La Condamine meticulously carved a Latin Inscription marking the spot, and recorded that "*I carved on the most prominent boulder an inscription for the benefit of Sailors.*"



**At Punta Palmar promontory, Ecuador, La Condamine  
Carves a Latin inscription documenting the location  
Where the Pacific ocean meets the coastline at the Equator**

On June 4, after scaling the volcano Rucu Pichincha and overcoming the dangers of a similarly perilous trip inland, La Condamine arrived in Quito. On June 10, Bouguer became the last member of the Equatorial Mission to reach Quito. Over a year has passed since they left their homes in Europe. Having faced great hardship and countless delays, the entire team had finally arrived at their destination.

After a two month separation, the differences between the reassembled team had softened, and they began their search for an ideal location to begin their work. They ultimately chose a plateau in the vicinity of Yaruqui, 12 miles north of Quito, to make their baseline measurements.

As before, the mission did not go smoothly for the group. The altitude and weather took their toll on the men. Their draftsman died, and the group's surgeon was killed. The team, fearful of Yaruqui locals who believed they were hunting for Inca treasure, needed to leave their work and travel south to the Provincial capital of Lima. They did not return to complete their work until 1737, with written verification of their mission from the Provincial Governor in hand to prove their purpose.

### **1736 Polar Mission to Lapland**

While not pertaining to exploration in the New World, the subsequent 1736-1737 mission by the French Academy of Science to measure the poles was initiated by the well known Swedish Astronomer Anders Celsius, shortly after he traveled to Paris in 1736 and advocated the importance of measuring the arc of the meridian. Celsius created the eponymous Celsius measurement of temperature. Celsius was joined by the head of the Polar Expedition, Pierre-Louis Moreau de Maupertuis, a well known French Astronomer and Philosopher who would later become President of the French Academy of Science, and the first President of the Berlin Academy of Science.



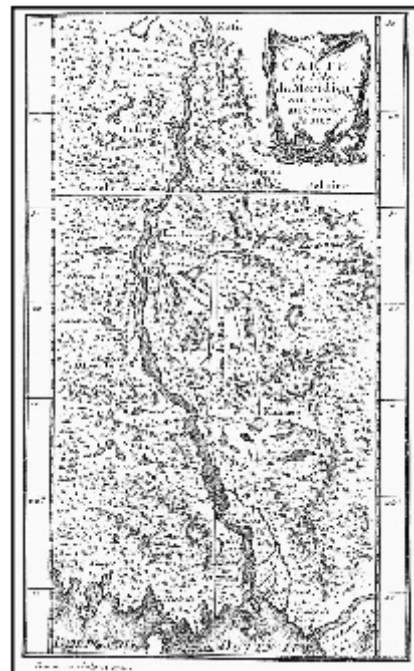
**Pierre Maupertuis triumphantly reported his findings to the Academy of sciences in August of 1737**

In a less eventful journey beginning in April of 1736, members of the polar expedition headed north to Stockholm, and then across the Arctic Circle to the Tornionlaakso Valley in Lapland, which today lies on the border of Sweden and Finland. With fewer hardships, and far less distance to travel, the Polar Mission efficiently proceeded with their

measurements beginning in July. By the end of the spring of 1737, they had completed their measurements, and in April of 1737 Maupertuis headed home.

After returning to Paris, Maupertuis reported his findings to the Academy of Sciences on August 28, 1737. The measurements made in Lapland proved that the Earth was indeed flattened at the poles. Newton was correct, the Earth was oblate. Cassini's measurements were wrong, as was his prolate spheroid Earth. His friend and supporter Voltaire declared that Maupertuis was "*the flattener of the earth and the Cassinis.*"

The polar expedition concluded in less than two years. In September of 1738 the equatorial expedition received news from France that their counterparts had already completed their mission, and reported their findings supporting Newton. While disappointed at their slow progress, and being outdone by the polar expedition, the Equatorial Mission persevered, and continued their work, completing their equatorial measurements in 1739.



**1736-1737 French Polar Geodesic Mission  
Map of the Torne River Valley  
Today the border of Sweden and Finland**

The members of the Equatorial Geodesic Mission continued mapping as well as other scientific studies and experiments until 1744. The bravery and brilliance of these scientists and explorers and the value to science and navigation from their expedition is immeasurable; and it continues to this day. It is commonly believed that La Condamine, tiring of using the term "Viceroyalty of Peru" began referring



to the area along the equator as “Ecuador”, thus creating the name for the country where they performed their measurements. La Condamine discovered platinum and studied the practical uses of rubber. He traveled home using a route through the Amazon, creating the first accurate map of the Amazon River basin, and brought home over 200 specimens from his journey. Bouguer made extensive barometric measurements while traveling from sea level up the Andes to Quito, and created an important logarithm between barometric pressure and altitude. He was the first to hang a plumb line from a knife-edge piece, and he discovered the gravitational effects of mountains or other large masses on a plumb line, known today as the Bouguer anomaly. Ulloa and Juan extensively illustrated and documented the South American natives and their culture, and the Inca ruins in the Andes.

### The 1744 French Geodesic Mission Medal

Upon conclusion of the two expeditions, a medal was struck commemorating the events. The medal is not listed in Betts, but was listed on page 162 as # 258 in the important 1924 reference *Medallas Europeas Relativas a América* by José Toribio Medina.

The medal, measuring 41 mm is seen in both copper and silver:

**The Obverse** of the medal features a bust of King Louis XV bareheaded, with long hair held by a headband knotted at the back and falling in thick curls on the shoulders, surrounded by the legend LUD.XV.REX.CHRISTIANISS (Louis XV, the most Christian king). Below the bust is the engravers mark “FM” for engraver Francois Marteau. The medal is actually seen with two different obverses; both have an identical bust of Louis XV and identical lettering, but the silver medal has the “FM” initials in ligature:



**The Reverse** contains a wonderful allegorical design reflecting the events. A figure stands on a terrestrial globe, presumably King Louis XV, bareheaded and in the image of a Roman hero, giving orders to two genii, who spring to his right and left, charged with mathematical instruments; above them is a group of stars. The reverse legend: above MENSOR ORBIS TERRARUM (it measures the earth's surface), in exergue NISSIS AD ÆQUATOREM ET POLUM ARCTICUM ASTRONOMIS M.DCC.XLIV (Astronomers sent to the equator and arctic pole 1744).



The reverse of the medal is unsigned, but at a March 18, 2004 Christie's auction in Paris, lot #112 included the original drawing of the reverse design done by the great sculptor Edmé Bouchardon. The drawing has a notation “le 5 aoust 1761 remis a M roittier, le dessin le fils”. The other original drawings in the Christie's lot have similar notations, all of which are likely instructions from the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres (Royal Academy of Inscriptions and Belles-Lettres), approving and assigning the designs for engraving. It is likely, therefore, that the engraving of the reverse design was assigned to Roettier. It is also significant is that the medal was apparently not created until 17 years after the actual events.

Why did the sponsors wait until 1761 to create the medal? We do not know. There is very little information of any kind available on this medal, so it is understandable that Betts failed to include it in his reference. We have found no specific reference explaining the delay in the creation of the medal, but here is a theory:

Three of the four French Scientists were lost within 2 years; Pierre Bouguer died on August 15,

1758, Pierre Louis Maupertuis on July 27, 1759 and Louis Godin passed away on September 11, 1760. La Condamine had gained recognition after the 1751 release of his history and the findings of the expedition, “*Journal du voyage fait par ordre du roi à l'équateur*”. He had recently lost his closest friend Maupertuis, and was now the only surviving French scientist from the expedition. A few months after Godin’s death, on November 29, 1760, La Condamine was granted a seat at L'Académie française (the French Academy). Founded by Cardinal de Richelieu in 1635, the French Academy is the most preeminent of all the French Societies, with an exclusive membership limited to only 40 seats for the most important intellectuals in France. Members become designated as *les immortels* (the immortals), acknowledging the legacy left by its members, and the French Academy’s motto: *À l'immortalité* ("To immortality"). Considering the sudden loss of Bouguer, Maupertuis, and Godin, and the prominence of La Condamine as one of *les immortels*, the 1761 timing of the medal no longer appears to be arbitrary. The time had finally come for the expedition, like La Condamine, to be immortalized.

A complete census has not been completed for extant examples of the medal, but an extensive Boolean search of the prominent reverse “MENSOR ORBIS TERRARUM” legend yields only six known examples; one silver, four bronze, and one of unknown composition. There are two bronze examples in the American Numismatic Society collection, one example of unknown composition at the Bibliothèque de l'Observatoire de Paris (Paris Observatory Library), and three modern auction results (and no others); including one silver, and two bronze. The documentation regarding this medal is sparse, to say the least. In all, there were less than ten unique Google hits for the reverse legend, all but one pertaining to this medal.

While this medal was missing in Betts, and not previously identified as an American Colonial “Betts” medal, with little record of the medal’s existence 250 years after the medal was created, the likelihood of any significant number of additional examples being discovered is minimal. We have not seen the ANS examples, but all three of the auction examples had flat rims, and were probably nineteenth century restrikes from the original dies. The original Bouchardon drawing of the reverse design of the medal, with the 1761 notation from the Royal Academy of Inscriptions and Belles-Lettres, proves the medal was a contemporary eighteenth century creation, yet with all of the privately owned examples – and at least half of the known examples - being

restrikes, it is possible that no original strike of the medal now exists.

Newtonian physics prevailed in the scientific understanding of the makeup of the physical universe for over two centuries before Einstein published his *Theory of General Relativity* in 1916. In the Age of Enlightenment, this rare medal, inspired by the work of Sir Isaac Newton and commemorating the French Geodesic Missions by this group of courageous as well as prestigious scientists and explorers, is one of the most important medals pertaining to the discovery of the Western Hemisphere. With few early medals commemorating exploration and science in the European colonialization of the New World, Betts failure to include this medal is a notable omission. With this article, the light of a small group of brave men can now shine forth. 🌟

---

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# British Medals Depicted in Cherokee Portraits of 1762

By

Duane H. King

On July 8, 1762, England's 24-year-old King George III received three diplomats from the Cherokee Nation in the Drawing Room at St. James Palace. The purpose of the visit was to reaffirm the peace established by treaties in 1761 that ended a destructive three-year Anglo-Cherokee War in which hundreds of people were killed or wounded, dozens of settlements destroyed, and thousands of people on both sides left homeless. When the young monarch inherited the throne from his Grandfather, George II, in October 1760, Great Britain was still suffering from the humiliating defeat a few months earlier of the 77th Highlanders under Colonel Archibald Montgomerie at the battle of Echowee Pass and the capitulation of the garrison of Fort Loudoun.<sup>1</sup>

A larger British Army was sent back to the Cherokee Nation in June and July 1761. With 2,800 soldiers, including the 17th and 22nd British Regiments, a battalion of Royal Scots, two regiments of Carolina Provincials, and Quentin Kennedy's Indian Corps, Lt. Colonel James Grant laid waste to the Lower, Middle, and Out Towns sending five thousand Cherokees into the mountains to starve.<sup>2</sup> (Figure 5.1)



Figure 5.1

Circa 1760 New Map of the Cherokee Nation  
Engraved from an Indian Drawing by Thomas Kitchin

Treaties with the Carolinas and Virginia ended the hostilities, but the peace was fragile. As symbols of good faith, two British officers spent three months in the Overhill Country and later accompanied three Cherokee leaders to Williamsburg and on to London to meet with King George III. For the

young monarch, it was his first face-to-face meeting with American Indians. He was mindful of the fact that they represented an indigenous nation that had held its own against the might of the British Empire, inflicting significant casualties on two British armies and dispersing thousands of settlers on the frontier.

The Cherokee delegation attracted considerable attention by the British press:

*"They spent more than an hour and a half with his Majesty...They were received by his Majesty and their Behavior was remarkably humble and meek...There seemed to be a Mixture of Majesty and Moroseness in their Countenances...The man who assisted as Interpreter was so much confused that he [the King] could ask but few Questions."*<sup>3</sup>

Another source noted:

*"Ostenaco dressed for the occasion in a mantle of rich blue covered with lace. On his breast he wore a silver gorget-engraved with His Majesty's arms. The other two Cherokees wore scarlet richly adorned with gold lace, and gorgets of plate on their breasts..."*<sup>4</sup>

Still another reported:

*"The Cherokees came from their audience of the King highly pleased with His Majesty's gracious manner of treating them, and talked earnest to each when they came out of the Presence Chamber; and the King seems proud of his Gorget or Breast Plate, which is very handsome."*<sup>5</sup> (Figure 5.2)

Although the press noted the military gorgets worn by the Cherokee leaders, there is no mention of medals presented to, or worn by, the Cherokees. Likewise, there is no mention of medals in the most detailed description of the physical appearance of the Cherokees:

*"The Chief [Ostenaco] had the Tail of a Comet revers'd painted Blue on his forehead, his Left Cheek black & His Left Eyelid Scarlet his Rt Eyelid Black and his Right Cheek Scarlet, all*

*his teeth were cut through like Rings, He had a Blue Cloth Mantle laced with Gold & a silver Gorget. The second had nothing particular except his Eyelids which were painted Scarlet, the 3d had painted in Blue on his cheeks a large pair of wings which had a very odd Effect as he look'd directly as if his Nose & Eyes were flying away. The two last were in Scarlet and Silver with Silver Gorgets.”<sup>6</sup>*



**Figure 5.2**  
Late 18<sup>th</sup> century Gilt Brass British Gorget

Regal portraits of two of the diplomats painted in the days leading up to the audience with King George clearly show the Cherokees wearing British medals in addition to military gorgets. The portrait of Cunne Shote (Stalking Turkey) by Francis Parsons<sup>7</sup> and the portrait of Scyagust Ukah by Sir Joshua Reynolds<sup>8</sup> are the earliest oil portraits of Cherokees.<sup>9</sup>

Shortly after their arrival in England on June 16, 1762, the first “cloaths” ordered for the Cherokee delegation were in the English fashion. Their companion, Ensign Henry Timberlake of the Virginia militia, soon may have realized that dressing like Indians made them more conspicuous and more of a curiosity. By the end of June, the Cherokee leaders were sitting for two of London’s leading portrait painters. Sir Joshua Reynolds, in his small pocket diary, recorded the names of his sitters for the month of June. He listed “The King of the Cherokees” with eight prominent Englishmen as sitters.<sup>10</sup>

Reynolds’s appointment book indicates a single appointment with the King of the Cherokees on 1 July 1762 (at 9 a.m.) and one with “Miss(?) Cherocke” on 5 July (at two).<sup>11</sup> Two newspapers reported that “The Cherokee Chiefs are sitting for their pictures to Mr. [afterward Sir Joshua] Reynolds.”<sup>12</sup> A separate portrait was made of

Ostenaco from which an illustration for a popular magazine in London was also made.<sup>13</sup> From the newspaper reports, it would appear that Reynolds may have painted portraits of all three Cherokees, either separately or together. Only one oil portrait by Reynolds has survived: Scyagust Ukah. The engraved-copper prints of Austenaco attributed to Reynolds published in 1762 do not appear to be the same person as in the Reynolds’s Scyagust Ukah. It is quite likely that Scyagust Ukah is not Austenaco as has long been assumed, but rather the third member of the delegation, a man named Woyi (Pigeon) who also held the same military title Scyagust Ukah.<sup>14</sup> (Figure 5.3)



**Figure 5.3**  
July 1762 Portrait of Scyagust Ukah  
By Joshua Reynolds

In 1758, Reynolds raised his prices to twenty, forty, and eighty guineas for head, half length, and full-length portraits. In 1762, he was making six thousand pounds a year, perhaps the highest paid artist in England. The portrait of Skyagust Ukah should have cost forty guineas.<sup>15</sup>

The British Chronicle reported that on June 29, “one of the Cherokee Chiefs (Cunne Shote) sat for his picture to Mr. (Francis) Parsons in Queens Square (Figure 5.4).” He expressed much pleasure to the interpreter on the occasion, saying:



*“His friends would now have something to remember when he is gone to fight the French....a throng of ladies coming out of Mr. Parsons’ room from seeing the pictures of the Cherokee Chief, one of them had the misfortune to fall down the Stairs and dislocate her knee; two surgeons were sent for, and she was carried home in a (sedan) Chair.”<sup>16</sup>*



**Figure 5.4**  
June 29, 1762 Portrait of Cunne Shote  
By Francis Parsons

The portrait of Stalking Turkey shows what appears to be a slit in a stretched, left earlobe and tattooing on the neck. He is also shown wearing a GR III military gorget and strands of black trade beads. He is wearing a white lace shirt and a scarlet mantle with black and gold trim draped over his left shoulder. He is also wearing silver arm and wrist bands and holds a knife in ready position in his right hand. Two medallions are suspended just below the shirt collar.

The detail of the painting is sufficient to identify the medallions. The first is a wedding medallion by J. Kirk. It is silver and 35 mm in diameter. The obverse shows the co-joined busts of George III and Queen Charlotte facing right. He, laureate, hair long, tied behind, in armor with lion’s head on breast, mantle fastened on shoulder with brooch; she, hair in diadem and drapery fastened in front with brooch; GEORGE III & CHARLOTTE KING & QUEEN.<sup>17</sup> On the reverse is Eros, Roman

God of Love standing fanning flames of two hearts burning on an altar. THE FELICITY OF BRITAIN. In exergue: MARRIED SEPT. THE / VIII MDCCLXI (Figure 5.5).<sup>18</sup>



**Figure 5.5**  
1761 George III and Charlotte Marriage Medal  
By John Kirk

The second medal worn by Cunne Shote is the Proclamation Medal of King George III. It is also by the royal engraver J. Kirk. It is “bronze with gilt” and is 35 mm in diameter. The obverse is the draped bust of George III with long hair tied in queue. The inscription is in Latin and reads GEORGIVS.III.REX. The reverse has a heart in center of wreath of laurel and oak on a plinth inscribed BORN MAY 24 / 1738 / PROCLAIMED / OCTr 26. 1760.<sup>19</sup> The patriotic legend in exergue reads: ENTIRELY BRITISH which may be a reference to the fact that his grandfather and immediate predecessor, King George II, was the last monarch to be born outside of England (Figure 5.6).



**Figure 5.6**  
1760 George III Proclamation Medal  
By John Kirk

The portrait of Scyagust Ukah by Reynolds shows a medallion, in bronze, gilt, or gold, suspended beneath the military gorget. While the detail is not sufficient to precisely identify the medallion, it is clear enough to discern a portrait of a man facing right. The portrait is presumably King George III. If so, this may be the obverse side of the proclamation medallion by J. Kirk shown on the reverse side in the Cunne Shote portrait.<sup>20</sup> The other possibilities include two accession medals by T. Pingo.<sup>21</sup> It is not the accession

medallion by J. Colibert<sup>22</sup> or the official coronation medallion by L. Natter,<sup>23</sup> both of which face left.

Another medallion by Thomas Pingo (1692-1776), then assistant engraver at the Royal Mint, commemorated an event that occurred during the Cherokee delegation's visit. This was the birth of the Prince of Wales-later King George IV. The second and final meeting between the Cherokees and King George III took place at St. James Palace on Friday August 6, 1762.<sup>24</sup> At the time, Queen Charlotte, who was nine months pregnant, viewed the proceedings from a distance. "The Chiefs took leave of the King; the Queen, Princess Augusta [the King's eldest sister], and the Prince of Mechlenburg stood at one of the windows fronting the courtyard to see them. The name of the head chief is Outacite, one of the greatest warriors in the Cherokee Nation. His name signifies 'Mankiller.'<sup>25</sup> [They] stood in one of the windows, with Sashes up, above Half an Hour, to take a View of them."<sup>26</sup>

A week later, as reported in the British press, the Cherokees joined in the public celebration of the royal birth of the prince who fifty-eight years later, in 1820, would become King George IV.

*"The morning at half an hour past 7, the Queen was happily delivered of a Prince. His Royal Highness, the Princess Dowager of Wales, several Lords of his Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, and the Ladies of her Majesty's Bed Chamber, being present."*<sup>27</sup> *"This great and important news was immediately made known to the town, by the firing of the tower guns; and by the Privy Council, being assembled as soon as possible Thereupon; it was ordered that a form of Thanksgiving for the queen's safe delivery, etc. be prepared etc."*<sup>28</sup> *"On Thursday Night, (8/12/62) The Chief of the Cherokees visited the most public streets on this metropolis. He was no stranger to the cause of illuminations, bonfires, etc/ and testified a great approbation at their appearance, and heartily joined with those that cheerfully huzza'd for King George, Queen Charlotte, and the new born Prince."*<sup>29</sup>

The medal (Figure 5.7), masterfully engraved by Thomas Pingo, is 40 mm in diameter and was produced in silver and bronze<sup>30</sup> The obverse has the busts of George III and Queen Charlotte facing each other. He is depicted with long hair tied behind and she has pearls in her hair and a lovelock. A single star appears under the engraver's name T Pingo F at the bottom center. The inscription reads: GEORGIVS • III • REX. • CHARLOTTA • REGINA. The reverse

shows a standing female with cornucopia handing a baby to seated Britannia. A star is over the baby's head. The inscription PACATUMQUE • REGET • PATRIIS • VIRTUTIBUS • ORBEM. which translates as "and he will rule a peaceful world with the qualities of his father." In exergue is the birth date: XII AUG.MDCCLXII. It is likely that the medal was engraved in anticipation of the royal birth with the date being added as the final touch. It is not known whether the medal was among the royal gifts the Cherokee leaders received prior to their departure at Portsmouth on August 24, 1762.



**Figure 5.7**  
**George III and Charlotte medal**  
**By Thomas Pingo**

In 1763, Parsons displayed the portrait of Cunne Shote in an exhibition at the Spring Garden Rooms at Vauxhall, along with one of Miss Davis,<sup>31</sup> an opera singer depicted in the character of Madge in Love in a Village. One critic said "these pictures, particularly the Chief, were as hard and unpleasant in the execution as the Indian himself was in his physiognomy."<sup>32</sup> Despite the criticism, the portrait of Cunne Shote became the source for several prints. One print James McArdell was sold at the Golden Head in Queen's Square for 2s/6d.<sup>33</sup> The portrait also inspired full length depictions to illustrate dress by Thomas Jeffreys in 1772<sup>34</sup> and Pierre Duflos in the 1880s.<sup>35</sup>

At least nine engraved prints exist of Ostenaco derived from bust and full-length portraits by Reynolds.<sup>36</sup> They were printed in various publications including three leading magazines.<sup>37</sup> Two prints in the Gilcrease Museum collection depict all three members of the Cherokee delegation. The masthead of "A new humorous song, on the Cherokee Chiefs Inscribed to the Ladies of Great Britain." by H. Howard indicates that the document is the only one printed during that time in England (June 16-August 24, 1762), which attempts to identify all three individuals by name.<sup>38</sup>

The second print is entitled "The Three Cherokees, came over from the head of the River Savanna to London, 1762. / Their interpreter that was



Poisoned.”(Figure 5.8) <sup>39</sup> The print picks up on a totally fabricated story by the St. James Chronicle that William Shorey who died at sea was poisoned by his Cherokee wife upset because she was not invited to make the trip to England. The images are composite drawings based heavily on portraits of Four Mohawk Chiefs by Jan Verelst commissioned by Queen Anne in 1710. It does show one individual in the center wearing a medallion beneath a military style gorget.



**Figure 5.8**  
**1762 Engraved print of Cherokee Delegation**  
**Based on 1710 Mohawk Portraits by Jan Verelst**

### Conclusion

The portraits of the Cherokee diplomats in London in 1762 may be the earliest images of Native Americans wearing British portrait medals. Although medals were given to Indians by the British as early as the seventeenth century, the Anglo-American peace medal tradition—symbolically important from the mid-1760s until the early 1870s—had not yet taken hold. Indian leaders in the Great Lakes area, who were changing allegiances at the conclusion of the French and Indian War, began demanding replacements for the flags, certificates, and Louis XV medals given to them by the French. An army ensign sent from Fort Detroit to establish relations with Indians around Michilimakinac in 1762 reported that he was asked for medals but had none to give out.<sup>40</sup>

Following Pontiac’s Revolt in 1763, the English scrambled to meet Native expectations. At the peace treaties signed in 1764 and 1766, “Happy While United” medals made in New York City were presented to Indian leaders, but Sir William Johnson privately complained about the quality and noted that the prized French medals being exchanged were “finer and thicker.”<sup>41</sup> General Thomas Gage promised to seek out “good Engravers at Phila.”<sup>42</sup> The medals

were being made in the colonies since none were sent from England.

In November 1761, while Ostenaco and four hundred Cherokees were treating with the British at Long Island of the Holston, the Great Warrior, Oconastota, was in New Orleans seeking support from the French. He returned to Chota with some gifts, possibly a medal, but definitely a military commission signed by the Governor of Louisiana, Louis de Kerelec, appointing the warrior *Captaine grand chef médaille de la fond*.<sup>43</sup> (Figure 5.9) No comparable medals were given to the Cherokee treaty signers by the British.



**Figure 5.9**  
**November 1761 French Military Commission Appointing**  
**Ostenaco as *Captain gran chef medaille de la fond***

The medallions given to the Cherokees in 1762 in London were not large, silver peace medals proclaiming “Happy While United” that were distributed widely by William Johnson and others. Rather, they were commemorative medallions produced in quantity for celebrants of royal events. They were not designed to be worn, but the Cherokees found a way to suspend them for public display. For the Cherokee diplomats and British authorities, the commemorative medallions served the same purpose as peace medals and military gorgets in that they were given to symbolize official recognition of Native leadership. Consequently, they were worn as public professions of loyalty to specific monarchs and governments. This is perhaps best illustrated by the medallions in the portrait of Cunne Shote: 1) showing the co-joined portraits of King George III and Queen Charlotte, and 2) a proclamation medallion with a two-word message in exergue—a message that both King George III and Cunne Shote, because of their ancestries, wanted to re-enforce—that they were indeed “Entirely British.” 🟡

*(Notes follow at the end of this issue)*

# 1902 Paris in London Exhibition Gold Award Medal

By

Kenneth N. Traub

Imre Kiralfy was an accomplished international producer and director of plays, stage spectaculars and exhibitions around the world. In 1893 he built a reproduction of the Chicago Columbian Exposition on the grounds of Earl's Court in London replete with a larger (308 feet tall vs. 264 feet) Ferris wheel than the original Chicago one, an amusement park, and palatial exhibition buildings. This exhibition was followed by the Empire of India Exhibition in 1895 and other expos including the 1902 Paris in London Exhibition. It was Kiralfy's idea to invite exhibitors from the Paris 1900 Exposition Universelle World's Fair to his smaller scale version at Earl's Court in 1902.

My interest in this relatively obscure exhibition was ignited by Joe Levine's (Presidential Coin & Antique Company) recent email sale list #4 where he offered for sale the magnificent gold award medal from the 1902 expo pictured below. The medal is 45.5 mm diameter and weighs 52.9 grams. It is edge-marked 18 ct and has a tiny Spink & Son London lettering at the bottom of the reverse. Levine's listing nicely described this uncirculated medal as follows:

"The obverse legend, PARIS IN LONDON EXHIBITION EARL'S COURT 1902 surrounds a scene in which a seated figure of Londonia is shown shaking hands with a standing figure representative of



Information on this exhibition is quite scarce as it is not considered an official world's fair because of its nature and size. My search for information on the fair on Google and through the interlibrary loan system (ILL) turned up only one extant reference copy at the Getty Museum library of the "Paris in London [at] Earl's Court Official Guide & Catalog 1902" by "Imre Kiralfy Director General". The Getty Museum graciously digitized the catalog which can now be obtained by the public at:

<http://www.archive.org/details/parisinlondon19000lond>



Paris. At left is the Arms of London and above, a river god probably representative of the Thames. At right is a small figure of Industry. In the central background is a view of Earls Court showing, among other sights, the Great Wheel, which was a feature attraction from the time it was built in 1894 until the time it was demolished in 1907. FOR MERIT, inscribed in the exergue. The reverse bears an octagonal shield engraved:





**“WARDLE &/ DAVENPORT LTD. / GOLD MEDAL  
& DIPLOMA/ PARIS IN  
LONDON/ EXHIBITION/ 1902...”**

The medal awardee, Wardle & Davenport was a silk and cotton thread manufacturer located in Leek, Staffordshire, England. The Official Guide & Catalog describes the company’s products including: “Peri-Lusta cotton threads dyed and treated with Mercerisation, and afterwards by a patented process, and also Esplen-D’or, an artificial silk of great brilliance well adapted for working with Peri-Lusta.” This listing also states that “examples of needlecraft done with the above” are present at the exhibit.



**The Great Wheel at Earls Court  
Depicted in a Vintage Post card**

Neither this medal nor any other from this exposition is listed in either Brown, L. *British Historical Medals*. 1760-1960. 3 volumes. Reprint. London, 2007 or in Eimer, Christopher. *British Commemorative Medals and Their Values*. London, 2010. I’ve contacted Joe Levine, Chris Eimer and Spink London to find out more about the rarity of this medal. Spink’s commemorative medal specialist Richard Bishop wrote to me, “I do not know of any written records here at Spink... the firm made many prize medals and records do not exist.” Chris Eimer said: “The medal that you have is unquestionably rare and it may well be that just a handful of examples were awarded, with perhaps yours the only survivor today.” Joe Levine has never handled any other medal from the Paris in London Exhibition of 1902 prior to mine. I would appreciate if any reader would be so kind as to provide me with any additional information you might have regarding this medal, even if this results in disabusing me of my fantasy that I own a unique award medal. ☺

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# Benedict Arnold And COMITIA AMERICANA

By

John W. Adams

**Y**ou history buffs know that Benedict Arnold was arguably our best battlefield general in the Revolutionary War. In 1776, under unspeakable conditions, he led a force through the Northern wilderness to Quebec. As the patriots retreated from Canada, he fought a naval action, against heavy odds, on Lake Champlain that forced Carleton to turn back from his advance against Fort Ticonderoga. The following year at the crucial battle of Saratoga, he, far more than Horatio Gates, deserved credit for the victory over Burgoyne.



March 6, 1776 Thomas Hart Engraving depicting Benedict Arnold in the wilderness before Quebec

It was earlier in 1777 that he gathered up a ragtag of Connecticut militia to harass Tryon in his raid against Danbury. The British were forced to hasten their return to their ships on Long Island Sound largely because of Arnold's aggressive tactics with an inferior force. It was this action that led John Adams to point out "the utility of medals" to celebrate the

deeds of authentic heroes. *"For my own part, I wish we could make a beginning by making a medal with a platoon firing at General Arnold on horseback, his horse falling dead under him and he deliberately disentangling his feet from the stirrups and takings his pistols out of his holsters before his retreat." On the reverse, Arnold should be mounted on a fresh horse, receiving another discharge of musketry, with a wound in the neck of his horse". Adams believed that the country had seen "few such examples of boundless courage."*



Benedict Arnold's Boot Monument at Saratoga Battlefield near where Arnold was wounded

We must be grateful that it was Benjamin Franklin who supervised the design of the *Libertas* and not Adams. Nonetheless, given Adams' stature in Congress, it is clear that Benedict Arnold came close to following the Washington Before Boston and becoming the second medal in the *Comitia Americana* series. Ironically, Arnold defected to the British largely because of perceived injuries at the hands of Congress. Thus, had he received a medal from this august body, chances are that he would have been commanding the left wing of the Continental Army at Yorktown in 1781. 🟡



## ✧ Letters to the Editor ✧

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Good morning John and Tony,

The new format and structure for our MCA Advisory is just wonderful and you both are to be congratulated!

Thanks loads,

Ben Weiss

**From:** Sim Comfort

**To:** Adams, John

**Subject:** Nov Dec 2011 Electronic Addition

Good morning John,

Congratulations to you and Tony for really taking a difficult article and creating a very good layout.

This author is one happy bunny!

And the whole of the issue is just fantastic!  
Thanks again and Merry Christmas, Sim

**From:** David Alexander

**To:** Adams, John

Worthy Editor:

I was looking over the March/April ADVISORY and read Dr. Ira Rezak's questions on the Allen Leonard SPECIMEN OF COIN ENGRAVING. The portrait on this piece is that of Louis Philippe I, King of the French (ruled July 1830 to February 1848). It is a skillful copy by Leonard of Paris Mint Engraver Joseph Francois Domard coinage effigy, complete with the OAK, not LAUREL crown. Oak signified a peaceful, purportedly wise monarch; laurel victory in war. This Louis Philippe obverse show's Leonard's skill as a copyist. His U.S. political medals of Henry Clay and General Lewis Cass show his utter lack of skill as a portraitist, and provided more than enough reason for his rejection by the U.S. Mint.

David T. Alexander

Good Day Mr. Menchell,

I have this religious medallion blessed by Pope John Paul 2 from his trip in Canada in 1984. It comes in it's original casing which is red satin on the outside and red velvet inside, with the vatican crest on the top. I received this because my father was a member of the Canadian Armed forces and was chosen, amongst many, to be the number 1 personal aide to the Pope during the trip, 9 of September to the 20th of September, 1984. As a token to the crew of squadron 437, Trenton Ontario, the Pope hand gave these medallions to them and blessed each of them. My question is i would be interested in the value of the medallion, apart from the sentimental value that it holds for my family. I have attached a picture of the medallion.

Any information would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely

Claudia Pelletier

Montreal Quebec



Dear Ms. Pelletier:

I am not familiar with this medal. I have forwarded your message to several other board members of the Medal Collectors of America. Perhaps someone else in the group will be able to provide you with more information.

Regards,

David Menchell

David,

In my opinion, the medal is certainly one of the nicer medals issued for John Paul II. The medal is available (in 1 1/2 inch diameter) on the internet for between \$40-\$50 USD, so I presume it was not made in limited quantities, or is still being struck. If Ms. Pelletier has some sort of certificate that came with the medal that signifies that this particular medallion was personally given and blessed by John Paul II, the value may be greater, but I would guess not significantly so. Also, if the medal is of some different diameter, it may be a special issue. As she suspects, the sentimental value to the family history likely far exceeds the monetary value.

Best, Tony Lopez

Brother Dave:

This high quality piece is almost certainly one of the later Annual Medals of the late Pope. The reverse has echoes in New York today, as its inscription was adopted by Archbishop Timothy Dolan, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of everlasting life." If indeed it is an Annual issue, the value is still regrettably low, perhaps as much as \$200 to a really interested buyer. More informed collectors are needed!

Dave Alexander  
[dalexander@stacksbowers.com](mailto:dalexander@stacksbowers.com)



## British Medals Depicted on Cherokee Portraits of 1762 Notes

<sup>1</sup> The battle of Echowee Pass (near present-day Franklin, NC) occurred June 27, 1760 and the capitulation of the garrison of Fort Loudoun (near present-day Vonore, TN) was on August 8, 1760. About two dozen members of the garrison were killed by Cherokees at Cane Creek on August 10, 1760. British Public Record Office, Kew, C.O. 5/59 Fol. 101, Original Correspondence, Secretary of State, Military Dispatches: 1760. 2 July 1760. Montgomery's description of his second march into the Cherokee country.

<sup>2</sup> British Public Record Office, Kew, C.O. 5/61 Fol. 379 Original Correspondence, Secretary of State, Military Dispatches: 1761, Copy of Colonel Grant's Journal of the March against the Cherokees, 12 P.

<sup>3</sup> The Gazetteer and London Daily Advertiser, July 9, 1762.

<sup>4</sup> The Monthly Chronicle of July 8, 1762.

<sup>5</sup> The Public Advertiser, July 10, 1762.

<sup>6</sup> This description was recorded by Elizabeth Percy, the Duchess of Northumberland, Queen Charlotte's Lady of the Bedchamber, who along with the Queen, escorted the Cherokees from the presence chamber during their visit to St. James Palace on July 8, 1762. See James Greig (ed.), *The Diaries of a Duchess: Extracts from the Diaries of the First Duchess of Northumberland*, London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1926:47. Diary entry for August 8, 1762. For an overview of this extraordinary woman's life, see Harriet Blodgett, 'Percy, Elizabeth, [née Lady Elizabeth Seymour], duchess of Northumberland and Baroness Percy (1716-1776), courtier and diarist', in *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004, online edition.

<sup>7</sup> 0176.1015 Cunne Shote (Stalking Turkey). Francis Parsons, 1762, oil on canvas, half length portrait (35.125"h x 27.75"w) framed size (46.375"h x 39"w x 3"d). Purchased by Thomas Gilcrease Foundation, July 30, 1946 from James P. Labey Ancient and Modern Paintings, 108 West 57th Street, New York, NY, for \$4,500. In files of Witt Library, Courtauld Institute, London, is a large photograph of this marked "Bromhead, Cutts & Co., London, 1924"; Witt Library Index queried by William C. Sturtevant on 23 April 1996 indicates this was an art dealer and publisher in London in existence from at least 1920 until 1924.

<sup>8</sup> 0176.1017 Scyagust Ukah by Sir Joshua Reynolds, 1762, oil on canvas, half length portrait (48"h x 35.5"w) framed size (55"h x 43.125"w x 2.65"d). Purchased by the Thomas Gilcrease Foundation, January 6, 1959, from M. Knoedler & Co., Inc. 14 East 57th Street, New York 22, NY.

<sup>9</sup> On my first visit to the Gilcrease Museum in the summer of 1972, I saw the portraits of two 18th century Cherokee leaders, Cunne Shote by Francis Parsons and Ostenaco by Sir Joshua Reynolds. I was struck by the attention to detail in the portraits particularly the medallions above the military gorget worn by Cunne Shote. The medallions were so accurately portrayed that I knew, with sufficient research, they could be identified. I had seen in other collections military gorgets similar to those depicted in the portraits, I had also seen silver arm bands, glass trade beads, and a hunting knife similar to those depicted in the portraits but never any medallions like those represented. Two decades later, as assistant director of the National Museum of the American Indian in New York City, my office was at Audubon Terrace, 155th Street and Broadway, two doors down from American Numismatic Society. By happen stance, I came across a photo of the portrait in the Gilcrease Collection and showed it to a curator at the Numismatic Society who referred me to several source books on British medals. On page 5, in the book by Laurence Brown, 1980, *A Catalogue of British Historical Medals, 1760-1960, Volume I* Seaby Publications Ltd. Ringwood, Hampshire, U.K. was a wedding medallion of George III and princess Charlotte an exact match for the medal worn over the proximal end of the left collarbone in the portrait of Cunne Shote. The second medal worn over the right collarbone was not pictured. However, the description of medal #4 on page 4, proclaiming George III as king on October 26, 1760 seemed to match the image in the portrait.



The Numismatic Society had a pewter copy of the wedding medallion. Another decade would pass before I would see originals of either medal again. While working on an exhibit focused on the two portraits in the Gilcrease collection, I came across two collections in the United States each containing one of the medals.

<sup>10</sup> Algernon Graves and William Vine Cronin, *A History of the Works of Sir Joshua Reynolds, P.R.A.*, IV 1533.

<sup>11</sup> Grieg, 1926:47.

<sup>12</sup> The St. James Chronicle (July 3, 1762) and Lloyd's Evening Post, #777, 17:5-7 July 1762.

<sup>13</sup> See the Royal Magazine, of London, of July, 1762.

<sup>14</sup> The 3rd, 4th, and 5th Cherokee signatures on the Peace Treaty signed at the Long Island of the Holston November 20, 1761 are Autassey (Ostenaco), Skiagunsta, and Cunnesaughte, most likely the three members of the Cherokee delegation to London.

<sup>15</sup> It is not known if the painting was commissioned. If it was, the fee was probably not paid by the sitter, since the government only gave the Cherokees a guinea a day to cover their expenses. It was probably not commissioned by the King, who purchased Buckingham House (later Palace) for £28,000 in 1762. Lord Egremont, (Charles Wyndham) Secretary of State for the Southern District, may have found some value in having portraits of the Cherokees in his office or home. Unfortunately, Egremont died the following year at age 52 and there is no record of any Cherokee portrait having been in his possession. It is also possible that Reynolds painted the Cherokees for his own edification or recognition of the historical value in documented their visit.

<sup>16</sup> The British Chronicle, June 30-July 2, 1762; See also Carolyn Foreman, *Indians Abroad*, 1943:70.

<sup>17</sup> The treaty of marriage between George III and Princess Charlotte of Mecklenberg Strelitz was concluded, and the ratifications exchanged, on the 15th August. On the 17th August Princess Charlotte accompanied by her brother set out for England, arriving at Harwich on the 6th September, and proceeded to London, where on the 8th September at a quarter past three she was greeted by the royal family at the garden gate of St. James Palace. At eight o'clock of that evening of the marriage ceremony was performed by the Archbishop of Canterbury in St. James's Palace Chapel. A detailed account of the Princess's journey to London, the marriage ceremony, coronation and preparation for public rejoicings is given in the Gentleman's Magazine, 1761, pages 414-21; 427-28.

<sup>18</sup> Laurence Brown, *Catalogue of British Historical Medals, 1760-1960*, Volume I. Seaby Publications Ltd. Ringwood, Hampshire. 1980:5.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid*, 1980:4.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid*, 1980:4, medal number 4.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid*, 1980:1, medal number 1 and page 4, medal number 3.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid*, 1980:1 medal number 2.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid*, 1980:18-19 medal numbers 21-24.

<sup>24</sup> "Yesterday, the Cherokees were at St. James to take their leave of His Majesty." *London Chronicle*, August 7, 1762

<sup>25</sup> *London Magazine*, August 8, 1762.

<sup>26</sup> *St. James Chronicle*, August 5-7, 1762.

<sup>27</sup> *The London Gazette Extraordinary*. St. James, August 12, 1762.

<sup>28</sup> *Lloyd's Evening Post*, August 11-13, 1762.

<sup>29</sup> *Lloyd's Evening Post*, August 13-16, 1762.

<sup>30</sup> Laurence Brown, *Catalogue of British Historical Medals, 1760-1960*, Volume I. Seaby Publications Ltd. Ringwood, Hampshire. 1980, page 17, number 77

<sup>31</sup> This was Elizabeth Davies, who originated the role of Margery in Thomas Arne's *Love in a Village*. She married composer Jonathan Battishill on December 19, 1765. She moved to Ireland with actor Anthony Webster in 1776 and died in Cork, Ireland in October 1777.

<sup>32</sup> Edward Edwards, 1808, *Anecdotes of Painters, Who Have Resided or Been Born in England* page 286. Edwards states: "The artist for some time studied in the Academy at St. Martin's Lane, but with no great success, and he became a picture-dealer and cleaner....He lived and kept a shop for some years in Albermarle Street, afterwards removed into Piccadilly, where he died sometime in the year 1804."

<sup>33</sup> See Smith, John Chaloner. *British mezzotinto portraits; being a descriptive catalogue...arranged according to the engravers...* London, Henry Sotheran, 1883. 4 Vols.—Vol. 2, p. 854. "Cunne Shote, the Indian Chief, / A great Warrior of the Cherokee Nation. / Was in England in 1762. / Sold at the Golden Head, in Queen Square, Ormond Street. / Pr. 2s/6d." Beneath image: "F. Parsons pinxt. Js. McArdeall fecit" H. 13 7/8", Sub. 12 1/8", W 9 7/8".

<sup>34</sup> *Habit of Cunne Shote a Cherokee Chief. / Cunne Shote Chef des Chiroquois.* "207" Full length. 24.7 x 20.3cm. From Thos. Jefferys, *A collection of the dresses...*, Vol. 4, 1772, where (P.27) it is said to be "from a mezzotinto print scraped by MacArdeall, from a painting of Mr. Parsons."

<sup>35</sup> "Cunne Shote. / Chef des Chiroquois / d'apres Parson / Paris chez Duflos rue St. Victor A.P.D.R." Colored engraving. Full length. 11" x 8 5/8".

<sup>36</sup> William C. Sturtevant, "Visual Representations of the Cherokee Kings in London, 1762" in Duane H. King (editor) 2007 *The Memoirs of Lt. Henry Timberlake: The Story of a Soldier, Adventurer, and Emissary to the Cherokees, 1756-1765*. Museum of the Cherokee Indian Press. Distributed by the University of North Carolina Press. Pp. 85-92.

<sup>37</sup> *Court Magazine*, Vol. 1, No. XI, August, 1762, facing page 491, also *Royal Magazine*, Vol. VII, facing p. 16, issue for July, 1762, and *British Magazine*, Vol. III, facing p. 378, July, 1762.

<sup>38</sup> Here they are identified as the Stalking Turkey, the Pouting Pidgeon, and the Mankiller.

<sup>39</sup> It was "Sold in Marys Buildings Covent Garden, according to Act, by G. Bickham," Full lengths. Image 8.5" x 11.25".

<sup>40</sup> "Ensign Gorell's Journal, June 25, 1762-September 18, 1763." Pp. 33, 38. Wisconsin Historical Society's collections, Volume I. Cited in Adams, 1999 P. 32.

<sup>41</sup> Johnson to Gage, 2-20-1766. Johnson Papers, Volume 12, P. 23.

<sup>42</sup> Gage to Johnson, 3-3-1766. Johnson Papers, Volume 12, P. 34. See Duane H. King (editor) 2007 *The Memoirs of Lt. Henry Timberlake: The Story of a Soldier, Adventurer, and Emissary to the*

<sup>43</sup> See Duane H. King (editor) 2007 *The Memoirs of Lt. Henry Timberlake: The Story of a Soldier, Adventurer, and Emissary to the Cherokees, 1756-1765*. Museum of the Cherokee Indian Press. Distributed by the University of North Carolina Press. Pages xxxvi, and 125.

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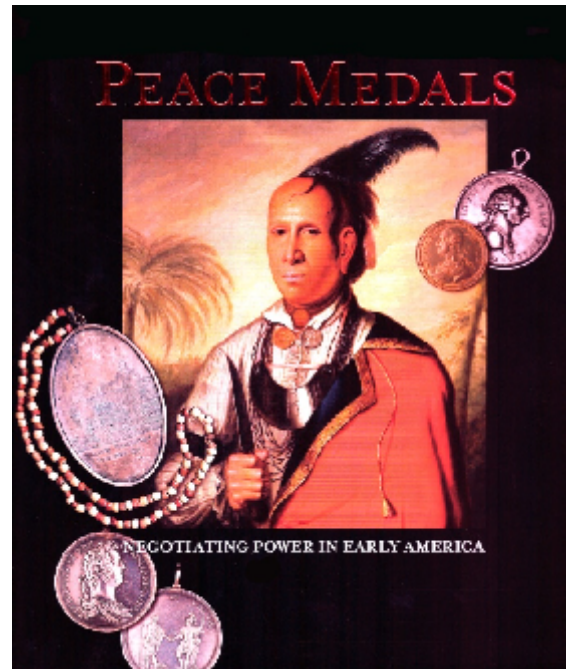
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